WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising TGase I and a synthetic lipid vesicle.

2. The composition of Claim 1, further comprising a glutamine rich substrate.

3. The composition of Claim 2, wherein said substrate is an involucrin.

4. The composition of any of Claims 1 or 3 further comprising a delivery agent selected from the group consisting of trichohyalin, elafin, repetin, periplakin, desmoplakin, envoplakin, keratin intermediate filaments, members of the small proline rich family, cystatin □, loricrin, fatty aldehyde dehydrogenase, cholesterol sulfatase, and extracellular matrix proteins, pigments.

5. A composition comprising a synthetic ceramide analog of the formula: 16-(16-hydroxyhexadecyl)oxyhexandecanoic acid.

6. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said synthetic lipid vesicle comprises a synthetic ceramide analog of the formula: 16-(16-hydroxyhexadecyl)oxyhexandecanoic acid.

7. A method of joining an involucrin to a synthetic lipid vessicle (SLV) comprising:

providing an SLV in a reaction vessel;

raising the concentration of Ca++ in said reaction vessel to at least 5 □M; and

contacting said SLV with an involucrin to join said involucrin to said SLV.

8. The method of Claim 7, further comprising adding a TGase 1 to said SLV.

9. The method of Claim 7 or 8, further comprising adding an omega-hydroxyceramide to said SLV under conditions that permit the formation of an ester bond between said omega-hydroxyceramide and said involucrin.

10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said omega-hydroxyceramide is a synthetic ceramide analog of the formula: 16-(16-hydroxyhexadecyl)oxyhexandecanoic acid.

11. A method of joining a TGase I to an SLV comprising adding solubilized recombinant TGase I to said SLV.

12. A method of joining a synthetic ceramide analog of the formula: 16-(16-hydroxyhexadecyl)oxyhexandecanoic acid to an SLV comprising loading an SLV with a

synthetic ceramide analog of the formula: 16-(16-hydroxyhexadecyl)oxyhexandecanoic acid.

13. A method of improving lipid barrier function in the skin comprising: administering the composition of any of Claims 1-6 to the skin.

14. A method of ameliorating an autosomal recessive ichthyoses (ARI) disease comprising: administering the composition of any of Claims 1-6 to a subject with ARI skin.